

The Maniac

(The — marked in poem mean short pause)



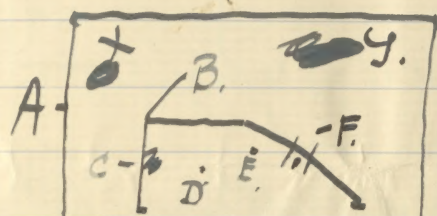
In this poem again. I wish to word paint as far as possible - trying to ~~prevent~~ avoid monotony of delivery, and above all to avoid reaching the climax before the end of the poem.

It must wake up from the gentle, anxious pleading of the 1st two verses right on up to the dream and self torture (the recalling the vision of the child - and so wake on - up and up - to the end which must be a very big climax).

In this also I want a small overture of 8 or 12 bars - of weird, plaintive and haunting music - to which at a given cue the curtain will rise and the music will continue - without any cadence - pleadingly - with throbbing - hurrying movement - (giving only the effect of hurrying - not really quickening the speed) - and the curtain will rise very quickly - The poem will start at once - Again it must be a story - an episode - not a poem.

Scene. Cell. 3 grey walls with iron door in 3rd wall and iron grating in door - straw bed. Woman dressed in dark grey - in chains - and warder standing near door - looking brutally unconcerned - with lantern and keys in hand -

- C. Straw bed.
D. Woman
E. Man.
F. Door.



A. Coliseum stage - looking
B. Set - ~~very~~ small scene.
D. J. The part of stage and
proscenium not to be used but
to be blacked out with black
cloth hangings.

Taking from the rise of the curtain - Woman standing with arms extended pleading with warder - most distressed - gasping and speaking a little quickly hurriedly.

Stay warder; stay and hear my woe - she is not mad who kneels to thee,
For what I'm ^(ch) now too well I know, and what I was - and what
should be

(c) I'll rave no more in proud despair ^(d) my language shall be mild -
though sad

(g) But this I'll firmly - truly swear ^f - I am not mad & I - I
am not mad.

a. short pause - falls on knees

(h) quickly - a little eagerly as though to convince him of
her sanity by letting him know she understands his position

(c) Conciliating him. (d) half gasp - half breath - then going on
quickly

g. Firmly intent on convincing him - not heavily - rather hysterical
and pleading - f and g. ditto - must not be heavy music
but anxious pleading.

P.T.O.

My tyrant husband forged the tale which chains me in this ^(a) dismal cell
My fate unknown my friends bewail - ^(b) oh gaoles haste that
tale to tell
^(c) Oh - haste my father's heart to cheer ^(d) - His heart at once t'will
grieve and glad
To know ^(e) - though chained a captive here - I am not mad
I am not mad

^(a) He smiles in scorn. ^(b) He turns the key -
^(c) He quits the grate ^(d) I knelt in vain -

^(e) Still, ^(f) - still his glimmering light I see ^(g) - 'Tis gone - and all
is gloom again -

⁽ⁱ⁾ Cold - bitter cold ^(j) - no warmth - no light ^(k) - life
all thy comforts once I had

^(l) Yet here I'm chained this freezing night although not not mad - ^(m)
no - no - no - not mad

^(a) 'Tis sure - some dream - some vision - ^(b) What - I the child
of rank and wealth

^(c) Am I the wretch who clanks this chain here for freedom,
friends and health ^(d)!

^(e) Ah - while I dwell on blessings fled which never more my
heart shall glad ^(f)

^(g) Ah - how aches my heart ^(h) how burns my head, ⁽ⁱ⁾
but t'is not mad ^(j) - it is not mad.

^(a) No break between the 2 verses - still hurrying on trying
to make warder realize it is the work of enemies
^(b) most pleadingly - half crying.

Still pleadingly - not so much pause as gasp for
breath.

^(c) only tiny pause. ^(d) still only anxiously - begging
of him to believe it - not heavily

^(a) Fairly long pause - warder shrugs his shoulders - goes
to door. ^(b) Warder shuts door & turns key ^(c) Having
looked through grating turns his back as if to go.

^(d) pause - quite hopeless.

^(e) Warder holds up light to see the way he goes - woman sees light
fading in the distance - ^(f) ^{short} pause. ^(g) woman watching - light
disappears - ^(h) shudders -

⁽ⁱ⁾ Moving back into cell and shivering - ^(j) pause - ^{still shivering!}

^(k) Bigger broader effect - appealing to life she has lost
^(l) - frightened - ^(m) short pause for sob - crying out in
fear - strong now!

Pause between m and a - seeing into another world and
comforting herself - - - (pauses - short)

^(b) louder - coming back to realities

^(c) heavily, scornfully ^(d) then tony down to sadness -

^(e) sorrowfully - not too slowly here - with sob in voice

^(f) ~~oh~~ deep sigh - & slowly on in soft tired out voice

^(g) slower - tired - ^(h) sighing - ⁽ⁱ⁾ straight on after
half shudder - as though the pain in head has brought
back the fact that she is accounted mad - speaking
fearfully - in frightened voice with bated breath
through teeth - in fierce whisper

^(j) short pause - then more insistently - more fiercely.

1

- (a) ~~Hard~~ Hard - my child - forgot ere this a mother's face
 . a mother's tongue
 I'll ne'er forget thy parting kiss (b) nor round my neck
 how close you clung
 (c) Nor how with me you begged to stay (d) nor how that
 prayer my foes forbade
 (e) Nor how - (f) I'll drive such thoughts away
 (g) They'll make me mad (h) They'll make me mad.

(4)

- (a) Thy rosy lips (b) how sweet they smiled (c)
 Thy mild blue eyes how bright they shone
 (d) None ever bore a lovelier child (e) And art thou
 now for ever gone?
 (f) And must I - never - never see thee more -
 (h) my pretty - pretty - pretty lad (i) -
 (j) I will be free - (k) Unbar the door -
 (l) I am not mad - I am not mad (n)

- (a) Oh - hark (b) What mean those yells and
 cries - (c) His chain some furious
 madman breaks

(5).

long pause between j and a - she almost swoons and
 in her swoon sees and speaks to her child - very tenderly
 (a) and rather slowly - (playing to the gallery.)

- (h) recalling memories which only mean agony and
 gradual loss of self control
 (c) eagerly (d) very short pause - then fitterly

~~Hard~~ (e) Hurrying on (f) break off suddenly with
 sob then determinedly
 but sobbing - now breaking up - but going
 straight on to g - (h) sobbing pause
 + cry last They'll make me mad.

Pause between (h) and (a) for more sobs + hysteria
 then back to vision - not too long a pause though.
 (a) softly - dreamily. - (b) short pause (c) . s. h.

- (d) Proudly (e) short pause as she reflects she
 has lost her child - then in frightened agonized voice
 (f) Bewildered - more frightened + more sobbingly
 (h) crying - i suddenly making up mind for
 action

(j) fiercely getting stronger & stronger.
 (k) knocking on door (l) (m) quite in
 frenzy - very strong but ~~not~~ not too heavy
 more rushing chords & passages than
 thick chords - but for knocking on door
 as many crashing chords as you please.

- (n) pause - still ~~knocking~~ - supposed to
 hear shrieks - wild anger turned to wild
 fear - then (a) in frightened whispering
 voice - (b) pause. (c) - dreadful noise of chain
 snapping

P.T.O.

Pause. ⁽¹⁾ He comes ^(b) I see his glaring
eyes - Now - my dungeon grate he
(d) shakes. Help ^(e) He's gone - (f)
(g) fearful woe - such screams to hear -
(h) - such sights to see - (i) My brain (j)
my brain - (k) I know it is not mad -
(l) but soon it will be.

(a) Yes - soon - for to now while I speak -

(b) See - see how you demon's eyeballs glare
- (c)

(d) He sees me - Now ^{short pause} with
dreadful shriek he whirls a serpent
high in the air - (e)

Ah - The reptile strikes his tooth
deeper in my heart so crushed and sad (g)

Ay - laugh - ye friends -
I feel the truth
your task is done
I'm mad ~~mad~~ (h)
I'm mad (i)

a b pause - (c) waking up to terror
never shrieking loudly - always
through teeth
4
-- mean pauses (d) backing from door
goes straight on to heartrending shrieks
(e) long deadly mysterious pause then
breathing out words
(f) gasping + then speaking as though almost
every breath of life has been frightened away
thoroughly exhausted - and slowly
(h) sighing + gasping (i) putting hands to head
moaning + straight on (k) - (j) short pause
in broken voice (l) still sitting and trying to
reassure herself - (l) long pause in which
she realizes she is going mad - speaking with
bated breath - whole figure tense

Then seeing mad illusions and half pleased
with herself - not quite chuckling - a little
terrified

(b) short pause - pointing at an imaginary
figure advancing - (not crashing yet)
c - pause

(d) frightened yet cowering
(e) staggering forward then dreadful
prolonged shriek - (f) then in broken
winded voice

Laughing madly - getting hysterical &
chuckling devilishly - (laughing &
crying at - s) (h) hysterical &
staggering so as to fall on knees

(i) still more so - and falling full length
on floor.